24th January 1933]

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—" May I know the additional remuneration paid for holding the post of Consulting Architect? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" I think he is paid Rs. 200 for the additional work."

Mr. V. T. ARASU :—" If such an amount is paid, where does retrenchment come in? "

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN :—" Instead of appointing a full-time officer, only an allowance is paid to this officer for the additional work."

## Local Self-Government

*Cases of alleged irregularities in the conduct of elections to local bodies.*

* 466 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the districts are in which taluk and district board elections have been held so far under the amended Act;

(*b*) how many petitions from candidates alleging irregularities and other defects in the conduct of elections were received by Government from each of the districts in which local board elections have been held;

(*c*) how the Government disposed of those petitions;

(*d*) whether the Government ordered re-election in any case; and

(*e*) if so, in how many cases and on what grounds?

*A.*—(*a*) Except for 2 circles in the Tanjore Taluk Board and for the District and Taluk Boards in the Kistna district, elections have been completed in all the districts in the Presidency.

(*b*) & (*c*) Numerous petitions were received, some by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and others by Government. In a few cases, Government set aside the orders of the Election Officers irregularly accepting or rejecting nomination papers. In some cases, where the poll had been stopped before the prescribed hour owing to the unruly behaviour of the mob outside the polling stations or other causes, a continuation poll was ordered in those stations on a fresh date fixed by the Inspector or the Government. Government ordered a fresh poll only in one case, as it was reported that a continuation poll ordered for 2 hours had proved infructuous.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

(*e*) The question does not arise.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" In answer to clauses (*b*) and (*c*), it is said, 'Numerous petitions were received, some by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and others by Government.' In view of that, may I know what steps the Government propose to take to minimize the irregularities? "

[24th January 1933

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The steps to be taken in each case should be considered on its merits."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—" In view of the fact that there were a large number of petitions alleging irregularities, may I ask if the hon. the Chief Minister proposes to take some action in the matter?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" I cannot answer a general question like that. If specific complaints are received, they will be investigated."

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—" Is the hon. Chief Minister satisfied that the conduct of local board elections all over the Presidency has been quite satisfactory?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" I cannot say that they have been quite satisfactory throughout. But Government did whatever lay in their power to have them conducted satisfactorily."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I ask whether Government contemplate issuing a report about the conduct of local board elections in this Presidency after the same is completed?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" There is no intention of doing so at present. If it is considered desirable, the Government will consider the matter."

*Extension of the date fixed for the publication of the final electoral roll of the taluk boards in the Kistna district.*

* 467 *Q.*—Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the period for the publication of the final electoral roll of the taluk boards in the Kistna district has been extended from 4th December 1932 to 22nd December 1932; and

(*b*) if so, why this extension was made in the Kistna district?

*A.*—(*a*) The date of publication of the final electoral roll of the taluk boards in the Kistna district has been last postponed to the 28th February 1933.

(*b*) A change in the holder of the office of District Election Officer and the receipt of about 80,000 claims for and objections to inclusion in the electoral registers of taluks except Gudivada contribute to the delay in the publication of the final electoral roll. Some twenty to thirty thousand claims and objections are also expected to be filed in the Gudivada taluk.

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—" Will the hon. the Chief Minister state the reasons which necessitated the Government to postpone the publication of the final electoral roll?"

The hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The reasons are given in the answer to the question."